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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

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VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA | OCTOBER 2016

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browseour website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2ndThursday of each month at 7:00 PM 330 Nut Tree Road, (Nut Tree Airport)

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: w6vvr

Club repeater in Vacaville:w6vvr.net 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeater
WV6F 440.025(+)

2016 Officers

President: Marcus MacLean-KI6WDX
VP: Frank Garay-KJ6RWQ
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt-K6HEW
Secretary: Brian Hagen-KK6BXP

Board of Directors:
Brian Hagen-KK6BXP
Ruff Gunn-K6DME
Antonio Del Rio-N6ZGB
Richard Craig-KJ6MIB
Arthur Miller-KI6UXE

APPOINTED POSITIONS
VVRC Net Control Chairperson
Club Activities Chairperson-Frank Garay-KJ6RWQ
Newsletter Editor-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor-Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

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Kevin, N6VLF's, Lecture on Repeaters

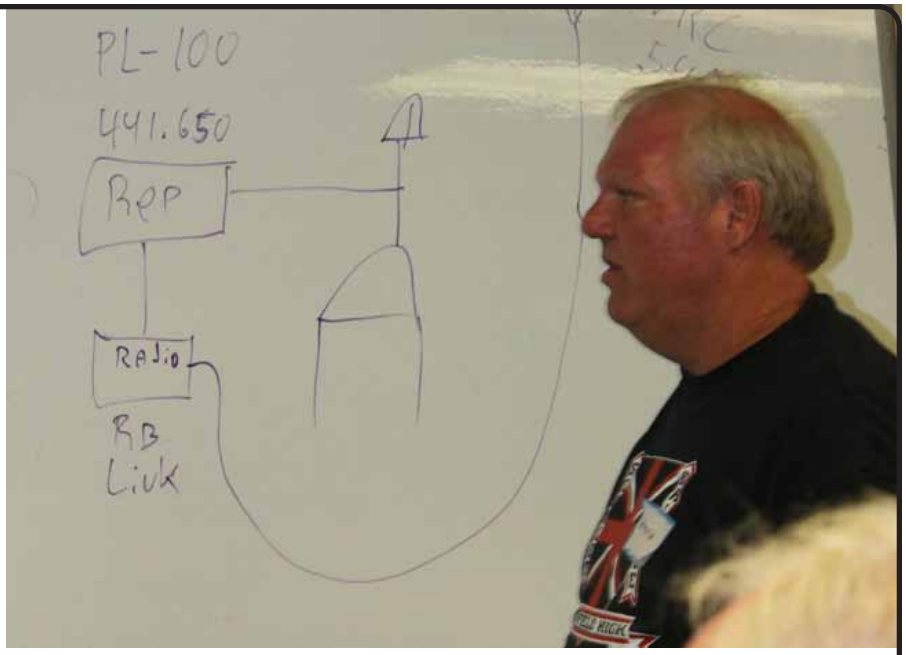
Kevin, N6VLF, gave a very detailed presentation about Repeaters at the first meeting of the VacaValley Radio Club on it's reopening after the September 8 Summer Recess.

Using a white-board he detailed the advantages of the use of older equipment and many ways to interconnect connect different units.

It was obvious that he held the attention of the members by the number of technical questions that were asked.

Several example of equipment were on hand as an aid to the discussion.

Thanks Kevin .



Useing a whiteboard Kevin was able to show different aspects of the equipment

Kevin had several diffrent pieces of older equipmen on hand that he used during his presentation

Newer equipment is much smaller that the older gear

This is a bank of filters

Cool News Story on Ham Radio

Date: Sep 21, 2016 1:04 PM

Check out this cool news story that Dave - KM6DUF passed to Kevin - N6VLF. Great stuff!

From Frank Garey

I attempted to put the video audio into text for W6VVR members...Jerry. KJ6SCC

Amateur Radio on Fox News Channel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0J1jdx83_AE&feature=youtu.be

0:04

Flashback in time....An old technology is gaining a whole new following. We're talking about ham radio. The number of licenses is at an all-time high and the renewed interest is coming from more than just hobbyists. Jonathan Serrie is on the radio with us live from an Atlanta job.

Hi John, emergency managers are increasingly turning to ham radio for backup communications during a crisis. Blizzards, hurricanes, tornados and natural disasters wreak havoc on modern communications networks. So, more and more people are turning to an all solutions Whisky 11.

For the Whiskey 11 ham radio unit, it is interesting that the technology that's been around for 80 90 100 years is still relevant.

Amateur radio including, John Davis, says major disasters such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina underscored the need for communications to a degree not dependent on landlines and her cell towers. Not just another Avenue, it's another opportunity for us to be able to communicate in a crisis emergency.

Healthcare is among a growing number of hospital systems and emergency Management agencies are developing Amateur Radio for ham operators who have permanent stations inside the Georgia Emergency Management agency's operation center. We look at ham radio operators just like Gee Mustang, just like the OT staffer Georgia State Patrol stamp their own critical partner with us there before IG specially trained volunteers provided critical communications during this winter's ice storms that gridlock metro Atlanta.

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Ham radio members is the quickest means of communication via Morse code; it'll get out when emails and smartphones couldn't.

The number up ham radio licenses in this country is at an all-time high more than 720,000.

Back to you; Yeah I think it was on Jay Leno they once had a bunch a kids texting against guys doing Morse code and the more and more of great wine they were faster.

Great stuff, Johnson, Thanks.

Note: I had to adlib a little of the text. Jerry, KJ6SCC

Another Look At VCERT?

Jill Childers

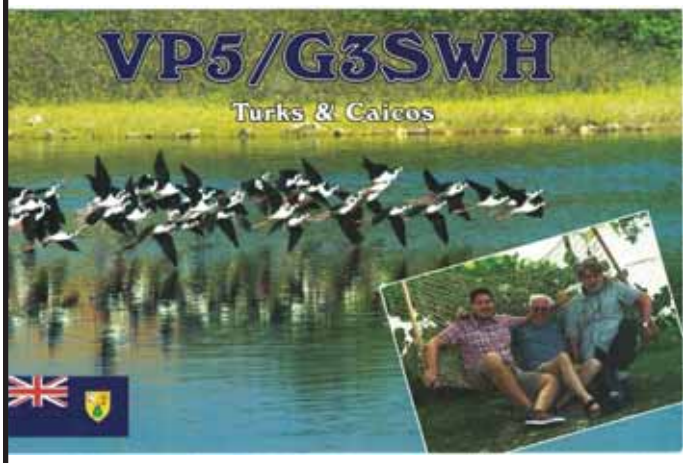
Way back in April 2014 we welcomed our guest speaker for the evening, Jill Childers, coordinator and instructor for the Vaca Community Emergency Response Team - VCERT. She presented a brief overview of the program itself and how it works, and the kind of training that is offered to the citizens of Vacaville to prepare themselves to help: 1) themselves, 2) their neighborhood, and 3) the community at large in case of an emergency.

Training consists of a 5-week course, held on Thursday evenings in the V.V. Police EOC room.

A number of VVRC members expressed their interest in taking these classes then but as far as I know, the only one that took the training was Richard, KJ6MIB.

It occurred to me that with the current new and very active members there might be some interest in VCERT. What say you.

Jerry, KJ6SCC



Here's a couple of Skip, AF6HC's, latest DX QSLs

"Cows Over the World" DXpedition is "Permantly QRT," KC0W Says

The one-man "Cows Over the World" DXpedition has ended — prematurely, abruptly, and on a sour note. Tom Callas, KC0W, reported that a theft this week in Kiribati has left him with nothing. He told *The Daily DX* that his Cows DXpedition is "permanently QRT."

"Everything I own was stolen on 28 September from here in Kiribati," Callas posted on his QRZ.com page. "They took all the radios, computers, amplifiers, antennas, coax, *everything*. They even took my clothing and shoes. I have literally *nothing* left. I type this with tears in my eyes."

The Cows Over the World DXpedition got under way last spring, when the Minnesota DXer fired up as KH8/KC0W from American Samoa. Other stops followed, and, after a brief hiatus, Callas last week announced plans to resume with his T30COW operation from Western Kiribati. He had been financing the round-robin DXpedition on his own.

All call signs in the all-CW DXpedition tour included a "COW" suffix. In addition to T30COW, the "Cows" DXpedition has included operations such as 5W0COW, T2COW, and YJ0COW. Announced plans to operate from the Solomons, Tokelau, Bangladesh, and other locations now are off the table.

The Daily DX reported on September 29 that Callas had received "a money transfer" and now will head back to the US. "It's been a major financial blow, but I will pull through," Callas told *The Daily DX*. —

Thanks to The Daily DX for some information

Wellll...So Much About Planning For The Future!!

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(4)

The Amateur Radio Parity Act

Sep 13 at 2:21 PM

Dear ARRL member,

I am writing to you today because we are at a crossroad in our efforts to obtain passage of *The Amateur Radio Parity Act*.

Our legislative efforts scored a major victory in our campaign when *The Amateur Radio Parity Act*, H.R. 1301, passed in the House of Representatives yesterday, September 12th. The legislation now moves to the Senate, where we need every Senator to approve the bill.

You are one of over 730,000 licensed Amateur Radio Operators living in the United States. Many of you already live in deed-restricted communities, and that number grows daily.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL HAMS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS!

· If you want to have effective outdoor antennas but are not currently allowed to do so by your Home Owner's Association, SEND THESE EMAILS TODAY!!

· If you already have outdoor antennas, but want to support your fellow hams, SEND THESE EMAILS TODAY!!

· If you want to preserve your ability to install effective outdoor antennas on property that you own, SEND THESE EMAILS TODAY!!

We need you to reach out to your Senators TODAY! **Right away**.

Help us in the effort. Please go to this linked website and follow the prompts:

https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act

Thank you. 73, Rick

Rick Roderick, K5UR

President

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio

Good News

Lauren Vidal, K6LIV, the youngest YL ham radio operator in the area has just passed her general class license test.

Congratulations Lauren!

W6VVR Blog & Facebook

If you would like to chat on-line about the VVRC, go to our Twitter account @w6vvr and chat away.

Also we have a Facebook account, just go to Facebook and search for w6vvr and there you are.

One other thing is we also have a "blog", that's right, a "blog", just do a Google search for Vaca Valley Radio Club Blog and enter your email address to follow all the comments. We are now in the 21st Century.

Thanks to Frank KJ6RWQ

Greetings! Please join us again this year for Pacificon 2016! It's just 3 weeks away! By pre-registering now you'll save $5 and avoid the registration lines at Pacificon!

To see what Pacificon 2016 is all about, and to see what you don't want to miss, please see the video produced by Randy Hall, K7AGE: PACIFICON Video

Pacificon - the Great West Coast Ham Radio Convention! ·

Outstanding Technical Forums

·New - Friday 1-day General License Class with Rich Harrington, KN6FW

·Saturday Laura Smith from the FCC talks about FCC and Amateur Radio Enforcement

Now!" link below to register for this time honored, but always unique event!

Remember - by registering now you'll save $5

PACIFICON 2016 WEBSITE

THE BIT BUCKET

Higher Bands Will Pick Up this Fall, Data Suggest Smaller Solar Cycles Lie Ahead

Propagation guru Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, says that, while conditions on 12 and 10 meters will pick up as they always do in the fall, F_2 propagation on those bands will decline thereafter, with only sporadic E during the summer months as a possible saving grace. On the other hand, the lower bands — 160, 80, and 40 meters — should be good going forward, and 20 and 17 meters will be the mainstays of daylight HF propagation. Luetzelschwab offered these observations during an August 23 World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)-sponsored webinar "Solar Topics — Where We're Headed." He said data suggest that Solar Cycle 24, the current solar cycle, will bottom out in 2020, and he advised that radio amateurs may need to lower their expectations on the higher bands (and 6 meters) looking beyond that.

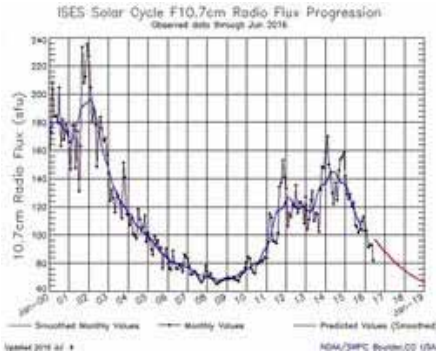
"I think the only conclusion we can make with some confidence is that we are headed for some small cycles," he told his audience. He cited various evidence related to the Sun's polar fields — which appear to be decreasing in strength, A index trends, and cosmic ray data to support his assertion. Luetzelschwab cautioned, however, that past performance does not necessarily predict future performance.

"There seems to be a good correlation between how long a solar minimum is and the next solar cycle," said Luetzelschwab. "The longer you spend at solar minimum, the smaller the next cycle."

He observed that hams active since the 1950s and 1960s have experienced short inter-cycle solar minimums of approximately 2 years, until the one between Solar Cycle 23 and Solar Cycle 24, which lasted about 4 years. He also allowed that the science is not fully understood, and that some things appearing to be patterns may just be coincidences.

On the other hand, he said, it looks like the downward trend of disappearing sunspots has leveled off, suggesting that Solar Cycle 25 may see a lower smoothed sunspot number as opposed to zero or near-zero sunspots.

Counting those sunspots can be a subjective business. "That's a tough job," he said of the task, noting that it appears observer bias also has been a factor over the years, affecting historical sunspot data. "We now have new corrected data that are believed to be more accurate."



A chart of 10.7 centimeter solar flux from 2000 to 2016. [NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center graphic]

Luetzelschwab's article "The New Sunspot Numbers," appearing in the October issue of *QST*, discusses the new sunspot numbers.

Luetzelschwab cited historical sunspot cycle data going back centuries — including the "Maunder Minimum" of zero and near-zero sunspots between the years 1645 and 1715 and a later, less-drastic "Dalton Minimum." He pointed out that over the last 11,000 years, 19 notable grand maximums — including Solar Cycle 19 and the cycles around it — and 27 notable grand minimums were recorded. "We're likely to have more of both grand maximums and grand minimums in the future," he predicted. The current system of numbering sunspot cycles begins with Solar Cycle 1 in the mid-18th century.

"We don't fully understand the process inside the Sun that makes solar cycles," Luetzelschwab said. "Thus, you should exercise caution with statements seen in the news."

Become an ARRL Public Information Officer (PIO)

The ARRL PIOs put the face on Amateur Radio when they represent all of us hams to the general public. How does an ARRL PIO do that? Register for the PIO Class that will be taught at Pacificon 2016 and learn. This class will teach you about the role of Public Relations in AmateurRadio, how to identify the target of PR efforts, and how to properly influence the public's perception of Amateur Radio.

Although the entire class that leads to graduation is 13 modules long, the portion taught at Pacificon 2016 will introduce you to the first four modules that describe the Public Information Officer, the Public Information Coordinator and how they build relationships with the media.

All courses taken at Pacificon 2016 will provide credit towards graduation of the entire 13 module course. The remaining nine modules will be taught at a later time at a location yet to be determined. Completion of the entire 13 modules consists of passing the final exam. A listing of all students who passed the course will be sent to the Section Managers in the Pacific Division. Should you want to receive a PIO appointment, you may communicate directly with your Section Manager who will determine if there is a need and if your qualifications support an appointment.

Open the Pacificon 2016 website and register for the event. Follow the menu listing on left side of the page and find Education and Forums. Scroll to the PIO Class listing and choose the option to register for the class. Please do so now.

Once you have registered for the PIO Class, Suellene Petersen, K6CPA, Pubic Information Coordinator for the Santa Clara Valley Section will contact you.ARRL

East Bay SectionSection Manager:
James R Latham, AF6AQaf6aq@arrl.org

NET CONTROL OPERATORS
1st week of month-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Marcus MacLean, KI6WDX
3rd week of month-Chris Jones, KD7TQO
4th week of month-Brian Hagen, KK6BXP
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

NEWS, PRESS RELEASES, AND GENERAL INTEREST

Scott, N3FJP, author of the many and varied N3FJP logging programs, has also written an article for the August 2016 issue of *QST* entitled "Kickstart Your Group with Club Contesting." It might provide impetus and guidance for getting members of your club to contest together.

Wayne, W5XD, has released the Contesting Super Simulator, an add-on to WriteLog. This software enables real CW or RTTY Practice, **including SO2R**, by emulating the radio and station hardware and providing simulated band conditions. Search and pounce mode is even available. (Redmond Radio Club newsletter)

In the late 1950s, the US began monitoring what today we call space weather — the effect of solar events on the Earth's ionosphere. In 1967, the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) was disrupted in a way that could be interpreted as jamming which, if true, would be interpreted as an act of war.

But because of solar observations and their predicted effect on BMEWS, the US military did not go on heightened alert status. This information was only recently publicly reported after a number of personnel involved were able to share their stories. (John, WV8H)

HMMMM; I wonder if this is the current administration Department of Energy's idea of cutting emissions and saving energy!

VVRC Net Plus Schedule 2016

Month	Date	Band	Freq	Mode
September	20	73cm	446.000	FM Simplex
	27	2m	146.520	FM Simplex
October	4	10m	28.400	USB
	11	20m	14.285	USB
	18	40m	7.200	LSB
	25	80m	3.985	LSB
November	1	73cm	446.000	FM Simplex
	8	2m	146.520	FM Simplex
	15	10m	28.400	USB
	22	20m	14.285	USB
	29	40m	7.200	LSB
December	6	80m	3.985	LSB
	13	73cm	446.000	FM Simplex
	20	2m	146.520	FM Simplex
	27	10m	28.400	USB

Newsletter Format Change

I had a little time and while I was working on this edition of the newsletter and I finally got tired of the bland first page.

Soooo, I started experimenting with the PageMaker program and finally came up with what you see now.

If you don't like it as it is now, I welcome suggestions that you feel would improve on it.

I'm also open on whatever you may or not like with the articles or have suggestions of other subjects you may like to see in your newsletter.

If you have anything about what you personally are doing related to Ham Radio and would like to send photos or/and write up something about your project, e-mail your info to me. Not being a writer is no excuse to try to write something because I am willing to help you with anything you send me.

I'm looking forward to what you have to say.

Jerry, KJ6SCC

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street: _____

City: _____Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish? (_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member? (_____)

E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

License Class: _____ARRL Member ? (_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

License Class: _____ARRL Member ? (_____)

MEMBER Dues	$25.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Check #_____		_____
Paid by CASH: (Yes) (No)		_____
DATE _____		
TOTAL		_____

NOTE: A free club ID badge will be issued with new memberships. Please indicate that you wish to have your first name or a nick-name on the badge: Example-First name is Franklin-Nickname could be Frank or another choice.

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143